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Identical letters dated 13 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 July 2016 addressed to you by the Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, drawing attention to the alarming human rights situation and the grave developments that are currently taking place in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (see annex).

We would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled "The India-Pakistan question".

(*Signed*) Maleeha **Lodhi**

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Annex to the identical letters dated 13 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to bring to your urgent attention the grave developments that are currently taking place in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

You would be aware of the alarming human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir following the extrajudicial execution of 22-year-old Kashmiri youth leader and rights activist, Burhan Muzaffar Wani, by Indian security officers in the southern town of Pulwama in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on 8 July 2016.

In the exercise of their fundamental human rights, tens of thousands of Kashmiris came out to peacefully protest against this killing and to pay homage to this young symbol of the Kashmiri movement for self-determination. Brute force, including indiscriminate use of live ammunition by Indian security forces on peaceful protestors, has resulted in more than 30 casualties and injuries to over 300 innocent people over the past three days.

The valiant people of Jammu and Kashmir have thus been subjected to yet another brutal bloodbath at the hands of the Indian occupying forces that continue to operate with complete impunity, trampling the fundamental freedoms of the Kashmiri people in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. I am sure that in these times of democracy and accountability, the international community, led by the United Nations, cannot remain passive to such callous behaviour and grave violations of human rights by India in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir over the last several decades.

The United Nations has a special and permanent responsibility with regard to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which remains on the agenda of the Security Council and is yet to be resolved in accordance with its relevant resolutions. The current situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is in fact the result of the continued denial by India of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people through a free and fair plebiscite under United Nations auspices, which was assured by the United Nations in its multiple resolutions.

You would agree that the non-resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is a constant source of tension and instability in the region and a threat to international peace and security. Lack of progress in finding a durable solution to the Kashmir question in accordance with United Nations resolutions, along with the continuing violations of human rights in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and lack of accountability therefor, have led to feelings of frustration and resentment, especially among the new generation of Kashmiris, who are increasingly adding their voices to the decades-long Kashmiri indigenous movement for self-determination. India can no longer be in denial of these facts by terming the situation an internal matter, a position that has no standing whatsoever, in view of the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, as is also reflected in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I would like to urge you to take note of the prevailing situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and its serious implications for international peace and security. We also request that you call upon India to stop the killing of innocent civilians and to cease its repressive policies and human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Let me underline that, as a concerned party, Pakistan remains committed to peacefully resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. Pakistan will continue to extend its moral and diplomatic support for the realization of the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has also always welcomed the role and initiatives of the Secretary-General to facilitate the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir question, and we will continue to support such efforts in the future.

(*Signed*) Sartaj Aziz
Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs